

UNTERMYER OFFERS HOUSING REMEDIES

Charges That Material Manufacturers Are in Combine to Keep Costs Up.

SUGGESTS NEW TAX PLAN

Urges That Insurance Companies Be Compelled to Buy Real Estate Mortgages.

After asserting that the commercial supremacy of New York city was seriously menaced by the scarcity of housing accommodations, Samuel Untermyer yesterday added that the remedy for present conditions was simple and offered three specific suggestions for bringing it about.

He would first, he said, procure the passage by the Legislature of laws requiring the life and fire insurance companies to dispose of their holdings of industrial stocks, the life insurance companies were the "dominating power" in Wall Street to-day.

"Can't they be compelled to dispose of them?" some one asked.

"Yes," returned Mr. Untermyer, "if the Legislature does its duty, but apparently it will not. It seems that the life insurance companies can get any kind of legislation they want at Albany. The Mutual Life Insurance Company owned Pennsylvania Railroad stock of the market value of \$2,000,000 on December 31, 1918. Of course they've lost money on it."

Mr. Untermyer said he intended no attack upon individuals, but only upon a system which Charles E. Hughes had exposed at the time of the insurance investigations in 1905 and 1906. The whole trouble, he said, was that officials of life insurance companies were able to wield enormous power and to make money for themselves by investing the funds of their policy holders in railroad and industrial corporations rather than by putting it into real estate mortgages, where it would bring the policy holders far better returns. The New York Life Insurance Company, he said, had purchased "fairly liberal" policy regarding real estate loans. He gave figures showing that by far the greater percentage of life insurance company funds were invested in the sort of securities he insisted the Legislature should compel them to get rid of.

"As far as loans on real estate mortgages are concerned," he continued, "the fire insurance companies are worse offenders than the life insurance companies. Their situation is simply incredible."

To illustrate his point, Mr. Untermyer said that January 1, 1919, the United States Fire Insurance Company had less than 10 per cent. of its funds in real estate; the Continental Life Insurance Company owned \$30,000,000 worth of stocks and had \$2,700 in real estate; the Home Fire Insurance Company owned \$28,000,000 worth of stocks and \$5,500 worth of real estate mortgages.

Justice Robt. in the Second District Municipal Court disposed yesterday of 150 dispossession cases, ordering the dispossession of tenants in 145 instances.

Owners of Brownsville real estate tore down rent strike literature yesterday which had been pasted upon their fire escapes by rent tenants. They were under the protection of a detail of police from the Liberty Avenue station and were hooted and jeered. While they were at work women threatened to throw boiling water upon them from windows, but none happened. The landlords and properties concerned were Abraham Elman, 486 Alabama Avenue; Isaac Elman, 431 Alabama Avenue; and Jacob Siffin, 456 Williams Avenue.

Will Call Insurance Heads.

Mr. Untermyer was the first witness before the joint session of the general welfare committee of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor's Committee on Rent Protesting, which have united in an endeavor to find some method of alleviating the present scarcity of houses here. Nathan Hirsch, the chairman, announced that the committee would summon life insurance company presidents to testify next week in an effort to bring some way would be taken to tap their financial resources so that their funds could be employed in financing building operations.

Mr. Untermyer also condemned the suggestion that Federal aid for building be sought. Even if the Government appropriated \$500,000,000 and New York city received its full share it would amount to but about \$25,000,000, he said.

"Looks to me," he went on, "as though some one was trying to work a herring across the trail in an effort to keep from having to assume responsibility. We can get enough money out of four or five life insurance companies if they will dispose of the railroad and industrial stocks they have no right to hold and invest in the best security in the world—improved and unimproved New York city real estate. From twelve of these companies we could raise \$100,000,000."

The great danger to New York, Mr. Untermyer said, was that laboring men and others who found they had to pay such high rates for homes here would move elsewhere. Local manufacturers, as a result, would be unable to compete with those in other localities.

Looks for Higher Labor Costs.

"I don't believe the cost of labor will decline, but that it is likely to increase," he said. "We must organize a system of protection against cheap foreign labor. Tremendous competition is coming from miserable, wretched, starved people who will be willing to work under any living conditions forced upon them. We need a strong protective tariff, entirely outside of revenue, to guard against their competition."

Mr. Untermyer then discussed the trusts and secret agreements between manufacturers, which he asserted must be broken up and suppressed. The price of building materials had gone up 200 per cent, he said, while the increased cost of labor was not more than 20 per cent.

"The cement industry is controlled practically by the Atlas and Portland people," he said. "No matter where you go the price is the same. Bricks are up 200 or 300 per cent, but there is as much clay in the ground as ever and the increase in wages doesn't account for it. I am one of the largest holders in one of the steel companies myself. Although I don't know of combinations myself, yet the steel companies manage to have an unfortunate similarity in prices."

"I believe that the building trades associations ought to be investigated. Call in the bookkeepers of the big concerns and get their prices. If you find any variations then you pretty nearly have prima facie evidence—taken with the

COP SHOOT TWO CHILDREN IN MOB

Attacked in Making Arrest, Sends Bullet Through Boy's Head; Wounds Girl.

LAD PROBABLY WILL DIE

Policeman Assaulted as He Seizes Carousel Owner Who Stabbed Rival.

Vincenzo Merolla, 34 Nostrand Avenue, and Nicholas Garafola, 99 Havemeyer Street, both of Brooklyn, are rival carousel owners. For two or three years they have gone about the Brownsville section, each with an old, tired horse dragging a carousel, with its four little hobby horses and a battered old mechanical piano that produces weird and blaring noises by the turning of a crank. It has been their custom to stop their outfits in a crowded section, load the four hobby horses with kids at 1 cent each, and then turn the crank and start the music and the carousel, giving the youngsters a ride of some five minutes.

But for several months there has been bad blood between the two men. Their living is precarious at best, and of late so much money is needed for rent and food and everything that the children haven't many pennies any more. So the incomes of Merolla and Garafola decreased, and as it decreased their animosity increased. Each accused the other of stealing his customers and of taking his carousel to the haunts of the aristocracy. Yesterday they met at South Third and Havemeyer Streets, near the Williamsburg Bridge Plaza, and renewed their quarrel.

"You steal my business," shouted Merolla.

"Steal nothin'," cried Garafola. "I gotta do license. It says I go anywhere I please to go with my car."

Merolla struck Garafola, and Garafola hit Merolla in the face with his fist. Merolla then drew a knife and stabbed Garafola in the neck. Garafola fell. Thousands of persons were getting off the trolley cars from Manhattan, and within a few minutes there was a mob of people there that reached for a block or two in every direction. Most of them were shouting. Men in the center seized Merolla. Others looked for a policeman, but there was no policeman. Finally a boy ran to Broadway and Havemeyer Street, where Patrolman August Grom of the Bedford Avenue station was on post, and told the policeman that a man had cut another man's head off.

Patrolman Grom ran to the scene and grabbed Merolla, who struggled with him. While they struggled the crowd pushed and pulled and presently some one hit the policeman in the back. Grom drew his revolver and Merolla tried to grab it. By that time the crowd was so excited that it began fighting both the policeman and the Italian. Somebody hit Grom in the head; some one else pulled his cap off, and another person seized his coat and began to pull. Having the idea that a gang was trying to get him, the policeman began shooting.

The first shot he fired struck Isidore Aronowitz, 14, of 113 South Third Street, and the bullet went through the boy's head. The second hit Phoebe McDermott, 11, of 284 Broadway, in the right side. Both the children fell, and the crowd, frightened by the shots, drew back. By that time Capt. Wakefield had arrived with the reserves from the Bedford Avenue station and the police had come from the Williamsburg Hospital. Merolla and the two children were taken to the hospital, where it was said the Aronowitz boy would die.

Patrolman Grom was taken to the police station and suspended from duty pending an investigation by the District Attorney. The boy who was arrested on a charge of felonious assault.

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\$20,000 NAVY THEFT AT PELHAM BALKED

Three Men Are Arrested and an Unnamed Officer Is Being Sought.

BIG COVERED TRUCK USED

Case of Silverware, Rope and Other Goods Stored in House in Manhattan.

Several times a day for several days in the last week sentries on duty at the big gates forming the entrance to the Pelham Bay Naval Training Station in the Bronx have inspected a pass tendered them by the driver of a big covered double truck that was driven up to the entrance and signalled to the driver to pass in. Then the truck hustled up to one of the storehouses in the station, stayed there for a time loading and eventually was passed out by the sentries with equal celerity.

Not until yesterday afternoon, however, did either the sentries or the truck driver realize that any others but themselves were watching the passages of the big truck. They were watched though and late in the afternoon three men were locked up in the West Forty-seventh street station here charged with receiving approximately \$20,000 worth of property stolen from the United States Navy. The prisoners, according to the income of Merolla and Garafola, were made the police notified the navy authorities and an investigation was begun, which, it is expected subsequently will involve at least one navy officer who had to do with the system under which the alleged stolen goods were placed in possession of the men already under arrest. In the collection, the police said, were 200 pieces of glittering silver, which they think was intended for use in the officers' mess; 20 pieces of rope of exceptionally good quality; a shawl, a necktie, a pair of linen and cases of various other navy supplies in their original packing.

The arrests were made by Detectives Fitzgerald and Denison. They charged with the trail of the alleged receivers of the stolen goods several days after information came to them from a source which they refused to reveal. It is known that the police had been watching the truck and cases of various other navy supplies in their original packing.

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35 FROM N. Y. AMONG NAVAL GRADUATES

Nine From New Jersey and Eight From Connecticut.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—Among the 400 midshipmen who will be graduated from the Naval Academy to-morrow thirty-five are from New York, nine from New Jersey and eight from Connecticut. The names are:

New York—Emmet P. Forrestal, Philip Lemeral, Virgil E. Korns, Herbert Finckel, George A. Seitz, Hugh E. Haven, Stanley E. Martin, James B. Donnell, John C. Ten Eyck, Jr., Rockwell J. Townsend, Fridtjof W. Landahl, Frank W. Schmidt, Royal F. Jewett, Sampson Scott, Jerome F. Donovan, Jr., Francis Taylor, Frederick D. Repplier, Frank M. Maichle, John Francis Crowe, Jr., Edward J. Wals, William A. Swanson, Martin J. Gillian, Jr., Frederick S. Chapelle, Harris C. Aller, Austin K. Doyle, George H. Gregory, Harold R. Brookman, James H. Doyle, Solomon S. Leuth, Edwin C. Bain, Grville C. Cope, Jr., Wade De Weese, Charles A. Collins, Ignatius L. Guerin, David A. Hughes.

New Jersey—Clarence V. Lee, John W. Marts, Jr., Robert Bolton, Jr., Theodore G. Haff, Valentine M. Davis, Howard C. Rule, Jr., Philip N. Jackson, John A. Dillon, William S. McLean, Jr., Connecticut—William I. Leale, Herbert P. Schubert, Frederick W. McMahon, Robert W. Bokius, Edward H. McMenamy, Walter H. Waser, Jr., Walter T. Hart, Jr., Rowland D. Hill, Jr.

NORTH SEA MINES IMPERIL STEAMSHIP

Liner United States by Rapid Steering Escapes One by Fifteen Feet.

Quick action and a sharp turn of the wheel saved the Scandinavian-American liner United States from striking a mine in the North Sea, according to stories told yesterday when the vessel docked at Hoboken.

Two mines were sighted May 25, when the ship was one day out of Copenhagen, but rapid steering prevented a disaster. The boat missed one of the mines by fifteen feet.

The high cost of living in this country has no terrors for those who have been accustomed to the Scandinavian schedule, according to Murray Sayre, Vice-Consul at Stockholm, who returned with his wife and five-year-old daughter, Elisabeth. Butter, for instance, is from \$3 to \$4 a pound, he said.

The Scandinavian countries are absolutely resolved not to blockade Germany if the latter refuses to sign the peace treaty, Mr. Sayre said. The Government officers feel that their countries have suffered enough through the war, and that if the Allies want to blockade Germany they must do it without forcing hardship on other neutral countries.

Others on board were Max Ornstein, a New York manufacturer who has been in Vienna two and a half years as a "confined citizen," and who married in Austria; Merle B. Arnold, a Y. M. C. A. secretary, who declined to say anything about the reported mutiny in the 23rd Infantry in Siberia, with which he was stationed. Arnold was captured by Bolshevik forces, but escaped after a month.

The steamship Norfolk, which left Bordeaux May 18, brought twenty-two officers and men yesterday. One officer and eighteen men were from the 53rd Special Casual Company of Discharges, and one officer and two men from a medical detachment for duty. The ship's anchor in the North River, and the men were taken to Hoboken by a tugboat.

Shipbuilding Bill Advanced.

WASHINGTON, June 5.—Favorable report was ordered to-day by the Senate Commerce Committee on the bill of Senator Jones (Wash.), Republican, permitting American shipyards to construct ships for foreign account without first obtaining a permit from the Shipping Board. An amendment prohibiting the construction of ships for alien enemies was adopted.

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*CLOTHING AT THREE STORES

WOMEN'S CLUBS BACK LEAGUE.

Mrs. Baker Named President of Bay State Federation.

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass., June 5.—Mrs. George Baker of Concord was elected president of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs at Mount Holyoke College in the closing session of the federation to-day. Resolutions were adopted addressed to the United States Senate asking the ratification of the treaty of peace and the League of Nations.

Mrs. Herbert J. Gurney of Boston, the retiring president, made a plea for harmony in the federation, especially as between factions opposed and favorable to suffrage.

CANTRELL & COCHRANE THE STANDARD Ginger Ale

OF TWO CONTINENTS

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